



DISNEY STAR KICKS OFF
SUPER MUSIC
VARIETY



GETTING OUTDOOR FUN
DOWN COLD
OUTDOORS

FRIDAY
January 26, 2018

StarTribune

41° 27°
We could get used to
this ... but don't. **B6**

TOP NEWS



FOSSIL FIND CHALLENGES HISTORY

Human jawbone
in Israel predates
earliest migration
theory by 75,000
years. **A2**

**Trump repeats
funding threat**
Palestinians told
they'll lose U.S. aid
unless they rejoin
peace talks. **A3**

**Panel rejects
'healthier' cigs**
Philip Morris has
spent \$3 billion to
develop a smoke-
less product. **A5**

**Probe of doctor
extends to MSU**
Did Michigan State
cover up sexual
abuse cases? **A5**

**Doomsday gets
ever closer**
End-of-world clock
reflects that global
threats are at worst
level since 1953. **A2**

LOCAL NEWS

**Rep. Dean quits
governor's race**
Abrupt exit gives a
boost to GOP's Jeff
Johnson, who lost
to Dayton in '14. **B1**

**Officials fight
rapist's release**
Petitions oppose
MSOP plan to free
one of state's most
violent inmates. **B1**

SPORTS

**Penguins pour
it on vs. Wild**
A 6-3 Pittsburgh
victory snaps a six-
game point streak
for Minnesota. **C1**

BUSINESS

**3M predicting
tax-law gains**
Global economy
lifts sales, profits
for Minn. giant. **D1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Harvey's 70-inch
deluge of rain that
swamped Texas
is unsurpassed in
U.S. history, the
National Hurricane
Center said. **A2**



Trump tried to fire Mueller

White House counsel refused order, threatened to resign.

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT
and MAGGIE HABERMAN
New York Times

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump ordered the firing last June of Robert Mueller, the special counsel overseeing the Russia investigation, according to four people told of the matter, but ultimately backed down after the White House counsel threatened to resign rather than carry out the directive.

The West Wing confronta-

tion marks the first time Trump is known to have tried to fire the special counsel. Mueller learned about the episode in recent months as his investigators interviewed current and former senior White House officials in his inquiry into whether the president obstructed justice.

Amid the first wave of news media reports that Mueller was examining a possible obstruction case, the president began to argue that Mueller had three conflicts of interest that disqualified him

from overseeing the investigation, two of the people said.

First, he claimed that a dispute years ago over fees at Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Va., had prompted Mueller, the FBI director at the time, to resign his membership. The president also said Mueller could not be impartial because he had most recently worked for the law firm that previously represented the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Finally, the president said, Mueller had been inter-



Don McGahn, left, said that firing Robert Mueller would be a catastrophe for the president.

viewed to return as the FBI director the day before he was appointed special counsel in May.

After receiving the president's order to fire Mueller, the White House counsel, Don McGahn, refused to ask the Justice Department to dismiss the special coun-

sel, saying he would quit instead, the people said. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they did not want to be identified discussing a continuing investigation.

McGahn disagreed with the president's case and told senior White House officials that firing Mueller would have a catastrophic effect on Trump's presidency. McGahn also told White House officials that Trump would not follow through on the dismissal on his own. The president then backed off.

Ty Cobb, who manages the
See **MUELLER** on A7 ►

SUPER BOWL LII

Flashier rental pads are going fast

But housing options are
still plenty, and would-be
hosts stand eager to serve.

By JIM BUCHTA
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The last NFL playoff game was barely past halftime on Sunday when requests for Super Bowl-week rentals started rolling into Jessica and Peter Prudden's Minneapolis real estate office.

By Tuesday night, they inked more than 30 high-dollar deals, including two weeklong luxury house rentals for more than \$200,000 each. They've burned through nearly half their inventory of high-end houses and condos available for the event.

"So now we're playing matchmaker," said Jessica Prudden. "It's been crazy."

With just over a week before the game, luxury houses and downtown digs are renting swiftly for jaw-dropping prices. But it's still a renter's market for Super Bowl weekend.

Visitors to the Twin Cities next week have no shortage of offers from homeowners. From bare-bones bedrooms in suburban houses to lakeshore mansions with a private helicopter pad, there are still thousands of would-be hosts with dollar signs in their eyes waiting for their own Super Bowl windfall.

A year ago, Airbnb, the leading online exchange for overnight rentals, had only 1,000 listings in the Twin Cities. This month, it had nearly 5,000. Craigslist and websites set up by entrepreneurial real estate agents list hundreds more.

Since Sunday, there have been 1,000 bookings in the Twin Cities on Airbnb, Benjamin Breit, a spokesman for Airbnb, said. Local listers on See **RENTALS** on A6 ►

In Sports: Minnesota had NFL teams before the Vikings. **C1**

Online: Read the latest at
startribune.com/superbowl



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PICTURE B-R-R-R-FECT

The 2018 Winter Carnival Ice Palace was officially lit Thursday evening in Rice Park in downtown St. Paul. The 70-foot-tall palace is the first to grace the 17-day celebration of winter since 2004. The palace is made up of 4,000 blocks of ice that weigh nearly 4 million pounds. See more of this visual winter wonder at startribune.com/galleries.

Cops get tougher rules of conduct

Domestic assault, DWI
will now trigger a license
review for Minn. officers.

By JENNIFER BJORHUS
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Minnesota's police licensing authority strengthened its standards of professional conduct Thursday for the first time since 1995, broadening the list of offenses that can bring an officer before the board for potential discipline.

A conviction for assault, domestic assault or drunken driving — all misdemeanors — will now trigger a licensing hearing by the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board, following a unanimous vote by the full board Thursday. The three misdemeanors, until now, were absent from the list of convictions that could trigger a state licensing hearing.

POST Board officials agreed to re-examine Minnesota's conduct standards for law enforcement officers after the Star Tribune published an investigation showing that hundreds of officers have been convicted of serious offenses in the past 20 years without facing any sort of licensing review or discipline by the state board.

Little-known outside the law enforcement profession, the small agency is an independent state regulatory board within the executive branch. Its 15 members are appointed by the governor; most are current or former law enforcement professionals.

Thursday's vote was applauded by Inver Grove
See **POLICE** on A6 ►

WHAT THE BOARD DID

- Strengthened police conduct standards.
- Created crisis-intervention training.
- Updated training on use of force.

WE'RE GIVING AWAY OVER \$10,000 IN GIFT CARDS
The first 250 people in the door at each participating store
get a **FREE \$5-\$250 Gift Card***

* \$250 GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY OFFER DETAILS:
Be one of the first 250 customers in the door Saturday, January 27, 2018
and receive a Gift Card. 250 Gift Cards per store valued between \$5
and \$250 will be given away on Saturday, January 27 starting at 10am.
Guaranteed \$250 winner at every store. While supplies last. Limit one per
customer. Must be 18 or older to receive a Gift Card. In store only. See
sales associate for details. Associates and Retirees are not eligible.

We're ready for some football.

Join us for a tailgate party at
a Twin Cities Herberger's near you.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 10AM-3PM



Northtown Mall • Rosedale Center • Southtown Shopping Center
Midway Marketplace • Southdale Center • Stillwater

CHECK OUT YOUR CHANCES TO SCORE BIG ALL DAY!

- Enter for your chance to win prizes
- Prizes drawn every half hour
- Grand prize: \$500 gift card for a Home Entertainment Package**
- Wear your favorite team gear and save up to 25%
- Free makeovers in our Cosmetics Department
- Enjoy live DJ music and football snacks

**No purchase necessary, void where prohibited.
See store for complete details.